



DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

A California State Agency

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Date: October 20, 2011
To: Delta Stewardship Council Members
From: Joe Grindstaff, Executive Officer
Subject: Meeting, October 27, 2011

Chair
Phil Isenberg

Members
Randy Fiorini
Gloria Gray
Patrick Johnston
Felicia Marcus
Hank Nordhoff
Don Nottoli

Executive Officer
P. Joseph Grindstaff

The agenda for our twentieth meeting, and supporting material, is attached. Some additional handouts may be provided at the meeting. Unlike the majority of our Council meetings, October's meeting will be limited to one day only, Thursday, October 27, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

As usual the agenda begins with the Chair's report, as well as the Legislative and Legal Updates. Part of the Executive Officer's report will also include a review of the on-going contracts between the DSC and its contractors, as well as the grants offered through the Delta Science Program. The Lead Scientists' report will offer four items including highlights from the 2011 State of the Estuary Conference and a summary of delta smelt trends and investigations.

Delta Independent Science Board (Agenda Item 7)

Dr. Richard Norgaard, Chair of the Delta Independent Science Board (ISB), will brief the Council on the Delta ISB's recent public meeting, held on October 20-21, 2011. As mandated by statute, the Delta ISB is required by the Delta Reform Act of 2009 to: "...provide oversight of the scientific research, monitoring, and assessment programs that support adaptive management of the Delta through periodic reviews of each of those programs that shall be scheduled to ensure that all Delta scientific research, monitoring, and assessment programs are reviewed at least once every four years." (WC 85280 (a)(3)) The first day of the meeting focused on educating Delta ISB members on relevant Delta programs and plans. On the second day, they began identifying and prioritizing the programs they plan to begin reviewing.

Delta Plan Development (Agenda Item 8)

The fifth staff draft of the Delta Plan was posted on the DSC website on August 2, 2011. The comment period for the fifth staff draft ran from August 2, 2011 to September 30, 2011. During that time period we received just over 100 comment letters, constituting several hundred pages of input from water agencies, local government, environmental NGOs, private citizens, state agencies, federal agencies and more. The Delta Independent Science Board submitted approximately 40 pages of comments on the fifth staff draft, and four public workshops were held in September to obtain more focused discussion. A follow up workshop on Covered Actions is anticipated for November, date and location to be determined.

"Coequal goals" means the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place."

– CA Water Code §85054

Overview of Delta Plan Environmental Impact Report (Agenda Item 9)

The draft programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be posted by meeting time. At the meeting we will discuss schedule and the process moving forward. Gwen Buchholz, David Christophel, Jim Andrew and Ellen Garber will give an overview and discuss the draft EIR.

The October meeting is once again being held within the legal boundaries of the Delta. It will be in the first floor Galleria of the West Sacramento City Hall. The address is 1110 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento. If I can answer any questions or provide any information, please contact me at (916) 445-4500 or jgrindstaff@deltacouncil.ca.gov

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